

very successfully. Except those cell members are able to regenerate and be recruited. We're trying to dry up that recruited pool -- the pool from which they can recruit those folks. The majority of attacks are still from former regime elements, some of them from foreign fighters. But that's most of what we're dealing with these days.

Over here.

Q: Hi, sir. I'm Ned Parker (sp) with AFP News Agency. I was wondering if you could tell us anything about the death of the two French nationals who were killed last night in the Fallujah area?

Swannack: What I know is that they were traveling in SUVs along the highway, had stopped along the highway because one of the vehicles was damaged, and they were gunned down by some folks. Don't know if it was known whether they were support contracted for by -- or who they were working for, or if they were just a soft target available, but they were basically gunned down on the side of the road by probably some terrorists.

Q: When did that happen?

Swannack: Yesterday afternoon, as I remember it. Early afternoon yesterday, around noontime.

I need to take a question from the Pentagon, please, now.

Q: General Swannack, Barbara Starr from CNN. I wanted to ask you -- as recently as November, you had commented about your concerns about the number of Iraqi forces fully trained and equipped in your area. You spoke about even concerns that they might become a hollow force. What's your assessment now of the percentage of Iraqi security forces in your region that are fully trained and equipped and ready to take on the job?

Swannack: (Off mike.) -- the ICDC training and equipping -- we still are training -- recruiting and training the ICDC very well. There's still a problem to share with you in the equipment that they have. We're still waiting on trucks and radios to fully equip these forces and give them the capability that we need to have in them.

What I'm looking for, as a commander, as we work together with ICDC in the future, is that we have shared situation awareness. In other words, I can talk on a radio to an ICDC unit, and they can understand what we are doing in concert with what they're doing. We're not there yet. We need to have the vehicular transportation and the radios. These are on order, as I understand it, should be here somewhere in the next 60 to 90 days.

So the forces are trained. They're somewhat equipped as individuals, but we need more equipment, and that's on the way, to answer your question.

Q: Can I follow up with that, though? More broadly, sir, than just the --

Staff: (Off mike.)

Q: Sir, can I talk or not?

Staff: No. (Off mike.)

Swannack: I'm sorry, Barbara?